WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1881.

Academy of Studie-Les Harmonts. Abbey's Park Theotre—Votice in L.w. Aquarium—Sahal, and Broodway. Matine Hijau Opera H. ase—Oliveit. Booth's Theotre—Bellevel the Ritchen. Buner II's Museum - President and 9th 4t. Dair's Theater - The Passing Segment. Matiner, Grant Opera Rouse - Wiles. Matiner. Globe Dime Waseum-Ja Bowers Havery's Nible's Gorden-Le Vysge en fillste Havery's 11th St. Theater - Fritz in Ireland. Haver y's 5th Av. Theater - 0 i=8s Studious Square Theater-Eastern de New Theater Consigns—The Major. San Proneises Visat ets. Broadway and 12th St. Standard In-ners-Patience. Thalis Theatre-La Bascotte Tony Pastor's Thea re-Variety. The Castno-Pallenes Union Square a brates—The Lights o' London. Windsor Pheatre-lileak House, Matine

### Flowery Generosity.

Mr. ROSWELL P. FLOWER, who was recent ly elected a Representative in Congress from the Eleventh District of this State to succeed Mr. LEVI P. MORTON, now Minister to the French republic, has just received from the Government of the United States upward of two thousand dollars for salary payable during the time which intervened between Mr. Monron's resignation and his own election.

The law ought not to authorize or permit the payment of salary to a Congressman for a period prior to the date of his election. Mr. FLOWER is evidently inclined to this clew. He has sent the precise amount of his back pay to a clergyman in this city for dis-

tribution to deserving charities. Now, he clearly does right not to keep the money himself, but why should he have taken it at all? There is no more propriety In taking and giving away what does not morally belong to him than there would be in taking and keeping it.

The place for this money is the Treasury of the United States, whence it ought not to be withdrawn except to pay public servants for work done in fact, and not by some legal

Mr. FLOWER undoubtedly meant well, but It is easy to be generous at the expense of others. The highest standard of political othics required him to abstain from taking, for the benefit even of charities, the money which he evidently thought it would be wrong to take for himself.

We have no toleration for this back pay business in any form.

### The New Postmaster-General.

Ex-Senator Howe of Wisconsin, who was yesterday nominated as Postmaster-General, is one of these old-time third-termershow ancient the third-term question now appears to be, though it was very lively last year-who is not likely to advocate a third term for Gen. GRANT as long as he holds a place in the Cabinet of President ARTHUR.

By the way, Mr. Howe is not the only member of the present Cabinet who may now be expected to display more zeal in advocating a second term for Gen. ARTHUR than a third term for Gen. GRANT.

Mr. TIMOTHY O. Howe, we may observe, is a native of the great and growing State of Maine, though he has spent most of his life in the young and fertile State of Wisconsin, in which he was a Judge, and from which he was three times elected Senator of the United States. The late Secretary of State, JAMES G. BLAINE, though a representative in Congress and also a United States Senator from the State of Maine, is not a native of that State, but of the populous and interesting State of Pennsylvania.

We may further notice, in passing, that of the four members of the Cabinet who have two of them, Messrs. FRELINGHUYSEN and BREWSTER, are natives of our neighboring and prosperous State of New Jersey, and that the other two. Messrs, Howe and FOLGER, are New Englanders, Mr. FOLGER being a native of the ancient whaling town of Nantucket, in the transcendental State of Massachusetts, and Mr. Howe, as we have already observed, being a native of

Well, if Mr. TIMOTHY O. Howe manages the Post Office Department properly, and carries on its business with honesty and economy, if he prosecutes the reforms that are necessary and pursues the thieves who have lately been flushed, it will be a good appointment that President ABTHUR has made; if he does not, it will be a bad one.

# The Grant Retiring Bill.

The text of Senator John A. Logan's bill for placing U. S. GRANT upon the retired list of the army, with the rank and pay of General, as originally sent to the Senate Military Committee, was as follows:

"He if emoted. That in recognition of the eminen public services of Universes S. GRANT, late General of the Army, the President be and he berely is authorized to nominate and, by and with the salvice and a ment of the with the rank and full pay of General of the Army."

The reason assigned for this measure is .hus seen to be a recognition of GRANT's publie services. It is no longer pretended, as it used to be when this pernicious project was first introduced, that GRANT is poor. In those days, when the creation of a new military office, with the odiously suggestive title of Captain-General, was asked for, in order to accommodate GRANT, its advocates claimed that he was on the verge of povriage connections are very rich, and that he road and other great financial schemes of the country. Hence, when he is brought lorward as an applicant to Congress for a public donation, the plea is not poverty, but recognition of his public services as late

General of the Army. Now, if eight years of the Presidency of the United States is not a recognition of military service, what can be? He had received, to begin with, a higher military rank than was given to Washington himself, and a large salary connected with it; he next had two terms as President, with a salary doubled to suit him. During this time. and subsequent to it, he received hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of giftshouses, horses, lands, stocks, money; and not only were his public services thus recognized in his own land, but his journey around the globe was a kind of collecting tour. And now Mr. Logan is asking for more.

This greedy bill tramples on the military laws of the land, and on the whole principle of the retiring system. The statutes prescribe that the retired list shall be for offithis list. GRANT is a Wall street banker, a rallroad magnate, but he is not an army officer, and is not eligible to the retired list. The statutes also specially prescribe that the pay of every retired officer shall be three-fourths of the active cay of the grade declared that the tetired pay of GRANT as the compass and the barometer, fall properly

should be full pay, and not three-fourths. Conscious of these objections, the Senate Military Committee so altered the last clause of Mr. Logan's bill, before reporting it favorably, as to make it read as follows: To appoint him to the army with the rank and grade of General, to be placed on the retired list with pay accordingly. All laws | and parts of laws in conflict herewith are

su mended for this purpose only." The statutes relating to the special and temporary grade of General provide that it shall lapse and be known no more after it has been vacated by its present incumbent; yet Mr. Logan prescribes its possible continuance beyond that limit, as a rank with pay, for a person not the present incumpent, thus leading to grave military complications, and possibly to political perils.

Even were it advisable to pension Gen. GRANT, the course selected should not be one which overrides laws of the land and customs of the military service, forcing a civilian upon a military list limited in numbers, already full, and with veterans of longer service than GRANT, or else worn out and we unded in Indian campaigning, awaiting their turn for its vacancies. But the project in any form is bad, and should be so treated in Congress that GRANT and his friends will no longer come knocking every winter at the door of the Treasury.

## Prof. Adler on Sunday Amusements.

At every opportunity Prof. ADLER makes a plea for Sunday amusements for our poorer citizens. He advocates concerts of wholesome music, and the opening of such places as the museums in Central Park, either free or at such prices of admission as

everybody can afford to pay.

He argues that Sunday is the only time that laboring people can find the necessary diversion from their dull and steady employment, and now they have on Sunday the choice only between going to church or going to the grog shop, and as their welcome at the latter is more hearty than that extended to them by the churches, they prefor the saloons. He claims that if they had the choice between grog shops and inexpensive amusements they would prefer the latter, and many of the evils resulting from intemperance would be eradicated.

Prof. ADLER's proposition is perhaps very shocking to some Christians, but there is no doubt that thousands now of a Sunday waste their money, their strength, and their character, who, if they could find some wholesome and attractive diversion elsewhere, would conform much more closely to a Christian's idea of what a good man ought

### Twenty-nine Committees.

There are twenty-nine standing committees of the Senate, which are supposed to cover every proper subject of legislation. This number is the outgrowth of recent years, caused by the demands of individual ambition. The Chairman of every committee has a clerk, who acts as his private secretary, ordinarily at \$6 a day, and a room where his political and his personal bustness is carried on. Some of the clerkships are annual, with large salaries. Three of these committees are conventionally assigned to the oldest continuous Senators of the minority, no matter which party may be in power.

There are also four joint committees with similar advantages to those already named. But these thirty-three do not satisfy the greed for place and for preferment. Seven additional select committees have been created by special resolution, apparently for no higher object than to provide clerks for the seven Chairmen, to be chosen from their families or their next friends.

The duties of these select and regular committees must conflict in many justances. because two of them cannot properly consider the same subject at the same time. so far been appointed by President ARTHUR. Here are forty Chairmen, or two more than lous abuse, for which there is not even a decent pretext, has been gradually growing until it has reached these huge proportions. It is time that the common propriety of the Senate should rise up and protest against what has become an absurd outrage.

# A Wise Opinion.

Senator Beck of Kentucky has expressed himself with great wisdom respecting the proposition to refer the adjustment of the tariff to a commission of experts.

"I believe," says Mr. BECK, "that this is a matter which belongs to the representa- the locust. tives selected by the people; and that it ought not to be relegated to any other men." Every intelligent citizen should agree with this opinion. The members of the two Houses of Congress are chosen to make the laws; and they have no right to turn their duties over to others. There have been too many commissions charged with doing that which the Constitution requires should be

done by Congress. Of this sort of thing the Electoral Commission is the most notorious. If members of Congress cannot attend to the business for which the people send them Senate, to appoint him to the remed ist of the army. I to Washington, they should resign at once, so that others more worthy may be selected in their places.

We leficitate President ARTHUR on his appointment of Judge Guar to be a Justice of the Suprame Court. This is a sort of thing that puts GRANT and HAYES to shame. The new Judge is really a juriet of eminent ability and the most solid learning, though somewhat rough toward the bar; and he is not expected to do anything but decide all questions on their legal morits. What a contrast this appointment erty. Now it is known that he is one of the presents to such Judges as BRADLEY, BARLAN, rich men of America, that his sons and mar- | and Marranws! If Gon, Arranus continues in such a course as this, he will render real seris profitably concerned in some of the rail. | vice to the country and cover his own name with honorable distinction.

> While Mr. BLAINE has been writing so profusely and vigorously to Mr. Lowell since March 4, and has set the whole press of England and America discussing what he has written, Mr. Lowett himself has kept very quiet on these subjects, no utterance of his being quoted, and even no opinion on them being attributed to him. Apparently he has not be come excited over the Monnon doctrine or the Isthmus canal, and the contrast between his attitude and that of Mesars. HUBLBUT and KILPATHICK on delicate questions of diplomacy

> The theatres of Europe and America are all stirred up, just now, to increased precautions against fire. But so they were after the Brooklyn theatre staughter. Is the trouble that these increased precautions are insufficient, or that they are relaxed after the horror of a great disaster has somewhat passed away

The success of the fish fair held in Berlin has prompted another, following very closely upon it to take place in Edinburgh next year. The Scotch exhibition, like the German one, will cover not only every kind of fish, living, cers of the army-the very word employed | salted, smoked, pickled, or canned, but also all implies a transfer of active officers only to methods of catching and curing them. This brings into its scope all boats, tackle, nets, and other appliances used by the flaherman. The great science of fish culture, including the stocking of streams and the best modes of propagating, will also be represented. Then come the products that can be made out of fish such, for example, as give, isingless, and dressing for on which he is retired. But Mr. Lonen's bill | land. All kinds of nautical implements, such

into the range of the exhibition, as do the literature of fishing and paintings which have angling as their subject. There are, in fact, twelve different classes of exhibits provided for, and there is no reason why Americans should not repeat at Edinburgh their great triumphs at Berlin. The main trouble is that

the notice is now much shorter than it was for

the German exhibition; still, the work of preparation needed will be much less. The great changes just made in the National Guard of this State by Adjutant-General Townsend, distanding scores of companies and other organizations, will cause much talk among the militia. The country organizations suffer most by these orders, the Fifth Regiment and Battery B being the only ones disbanded in the city of New York. The pruning has long

would be so severe. MONTERO, the Vice-President of PIEROLA, has, since the latter's resignation, appeared as the latest cinimant to the rulership of Peru. Why not MONTERO, as well as CALDERON, PIEROLA, HUBLBUT, and PATRICIO LYNCH?

After to-day the days begin to lengthen. The old proverb runs thus: " As the days begin to lengthen, the cold begins to strengthen.

The proposition of Pobedonostzeff, President of the Sacred Synod, to reestablish the private and secret council, a former Russian court of inquisition, is perhaps the latest among retrograde remedies proposed for the ills under which the Czar's empire suffers. But it is not likely to be more efficient than the rest. The more the police probe the condition of the Government, the worse they find it; and they may well wonder where they are to stop, when they even discover bombs concealed in oranges.

The news about the Jeannette and her misfortunes in the Arctic is of great interest. This vessel, fitted out by Mr. James GORDON BENNETT for Polar exploration, left our coast in the summer of 1879, with provisions for a three years' cruise, and her commander, Lieut, DE Lone, distinctly stated that he expected to be gone until that time. When the excitement was aroused in Congress last winter which resulted in the cruises of the Alliance, the Rodgers, and the Corwin as relief expeditions, the Jeannette was still a year and a half from being due. The disaster of which we now have news is on many accounts to be regretted.

whatever he may think about it, Chandler has never had explained to him. After he had been

page of large sized papers that he had no intention, by any words he mucht have spoken, to offer an insult, and if his language was open to such construction, he begged to make a full spolegy to the gentleman. He saided that in case this explanation should not be satisfactory, and the gentleman should send him a challenge, he would not

My recollection is that he said also, in this connection,

that he would not light a duct to any case; but in this case particularly. Not having thentionally insulted any budy, he had no purpose of fighting for an imaginary See Your, Dec 20 offence. Police Court Stenographers.

THE RETIRING SECRETARY OF STATE. His Carlous Foreign Correspondence-Was It Written for the Foreign Ministers or to the

American People !- Talk at the Capital. WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 .- Mr. Blaine to-day retired from public office. The formalities at the State Department were brief and simple. The outgoing Secretary resigned to his successor the traditions and customs of the first Cabinet office, besides handing over certain legacies which are exciting interest here, comment across the sea, and some confusion in two republics of South America.

The intermittent serials issued from the State Department, in which some of the instructions to our Ministers in Chill, Peru, and Great Britain have appeared, have caused more serious discussion among public men here than any other current political topic.

been looked for, but it was not expected that it It is possibly the misfortune of Mr. Risino that a tendency exists to view all of his public acts in the light which his personal ambition sheds over them. As a result of this tendency, when Mr. Blaine's state papers were published, Senators talked with some freedom not only about their unusual and aggressive language, but also about the Secretary's motive in writing them. Senators have now, however, somewhat recovered from the surprise which the first reading of the correspondence created. They realize that the Senate probably will find itself. sooner or later, confronted with questions arising from Mr. Biaine's diplomatic correspondence; and they have been for a day or two more guarded in conversation. The policy of Secretary Frelinghuysen is

awaited with a good deal of concern. It is admitted that Mr. Blaine has committed the Government to a policy affecting one of its treaties with Great Britain, but a good deal of doubt exists respecting the view the Senate might be led to take of the matter. A committee of the House, a year ago, made a report, which was written by Mr. S. S. Cox, in which a different line of action was recommended. The committee, through Mr. Cox, recommended the final abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. The opinion now exists that it would be far easier to secure the consent of Great Britain to this action than to any such modification of the treaty as is suggested by Mr. Blaine's note to Mr. Loweil. Current opinion also goes further and assumes that Mr. Bisine could not have been ignorant of the difficulty, if not impossibility, of arranging with Great Britain for such modification of the Clayton-Buiwer treaty as is suggested in the recently published note. It is

the Coverne at relief expeditions, the Jeannath was still a rear and a half from being due. The disaster of which we now as now as no many accounts to be practited.

Wedo not often take any account of errosmous statements of fact rearring The Switz but here is a fellow writing in the Deaver Tribune, from his personal recollections, as he sars, who awers that our expelient friend. Private and the personal recollections are he sars, who awers that our expelient friend. Private and the second of the text that The Storald not cases into our hands, and Mr. Britano and the second the second of the text that The Storald not cases into our hands, and Mr. Britano and the second tribune that the "actual circulation of The Stor in the person of the second the second to the second the second the second the second the second to the second the sec assume any position as to non-intervention unless it has within contemplation and early reach such armaments as may enable it to

whatever he may think about it, Chandier has never had explained to him. After he had been make the football of enemies, new and old, Blaine wrote Chandler, informing him that the President desired to withdraw his name and offer him something better. It was the evidence of Gardeli's kindness of heart that he was always wanting to give everybody something better. Something better was instore for Chandler if he only would consent to nave his name withdrawn from the Senate, where, for reasons which Blaine at the latest date had not explained, it was buing up.

Chandler replied to Blaine by asking what were the reasons the President had not feel disposed to give his consent to such a proceeding, particularly set his nomination was without his privity. Barne failing to respond with the present, when he had saying that so termination was without his privity. Barne failing to respond with the present had so the contingent on the failure of the hadron. The failure of the hadron is not a Saawart, what is he?

Abraham Lincola Would Set Fight a Duct Abraham Lincola was to see the state there is he has save to abstite not from a brother is yet contributed by the contribution of Mr. Lincola, without in characteristic siyle, and in an away to a correspondent, and your answer thereto, in sundays Set referring to shelling invitations sent to Abraham Lincola would be to supplie the contribution of Mr. Lincola, which will be the description of Mr. Baines from a brother tay yet, whose same is the arm of the reliance with Mr. Baines of the saling of the wild not be said by the state there is he had been effected by remarks made in the trial of a cause the coart.

Abraham Lincola was in the letter with the course almost a page of large-sized paper that he had be intention, by any worth he made to the course and the trial of a cause the coart.

Mr Lincola was in the late to the c

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: I am pleased to see in Sunday's Sex the stand you take for the of Frinity Church will pay no attention to the facts. They have treated some of their most efficient serv into it a contemptible uranner. Mr. Hitchings need not be surprised at the way Dr. Dix and the westry have treat In police courts were good. You might have added that the money appropriated should be to part the saisets. I know that it less in some of the courts the money appropriated should to be part the saisets. I know that it less in some of the courts the courts and are of the courts and the accordance at the propose as a fine per nouth, of which the head of the series and the saisets to that purpose, as a fine per nouth, of which the per solution and courts the place to propose the state of the saisets and the saisets of the saise DUELS IN PRANCE

Custom that is Obligatory in the Army and Fashionable in Civil Life-Noted Fencing Masters in Paris and their Pupils.

Paris, Dec. 2 .- Among the amusements of Paris, save Louis Veuillot, we must count duels between journalists. At the present moment duelling and everything connected with swords-manship has become a kind of mania, and so prominent a feature of Parisian life that it certainly merits a chapter in the anecdotal history of the modern Athens.

Before speaking of the duel between civilians. the duel of the world of fashion, let me say that in the army duelling is obligatory. Two privates have a misunderstanding; exchange two or three sharp words. Immediately their corporal inflicts upon them two or three days imprisonment, and the following morning they are led out, each accompanied by his seconds to fight until one wounds the other and honor is satisfied. Stripped to the skin, with the exception only of shoes and trousers, they are compelled to skewer each other. In every regiment there are at least fifty duels a year, and not infrequently they end tragically. In nine cases out of ten these duels are absurd. The officers themselves admit them to be absurd. but they say that without the duel it would be impossible to maintain discipline and dignity in the army. The duel is a necessary ovil. If it were not for the prospect of that pointed rapier before them, the soldiers would beat and kick each other to death. Two men who were balf joking in their quarrel, or who do not bear each other the slightest ill will, are forced to fight simply to hold the others in respect, and to awe them by an inflexible rule,

Among civilians duelling is defended on the ground that generally it compensates for the insufficiency of legal justice. This is, of course, a matter of opinion. I am not discussing: I am simply explaining the French point of view, and accounting for a phenomenon which we Anglo-Saxons are inclined to look upon as a relic of barbarism. The duel, it will be objected, does not give the offended party the means of repairing the wrong that has been done him. Materially, no; morally, yes. Opinion has ordained that the single fact of the combat washes away the offence. Evidently, if a man were thirsting for vengeance, assassination would be a surer means; but precisely the equality of the danger and the loyalty of the combat, give to the duel a color of chivalry which prevents all but the most prejudiced minds from confounding it with a criminal manceuvre. The present French legislation has no special law against duelling; the duellist can only be prosecuted as a murderer. The consequence is that the authorities rarely or nover interfere. Opinion has sanctioned duelling. and, in spite of the edlets of Henry IV., of Richelleu, of Louis XIV., in spite of the eloquent protestation of Jean Jacques Rousseau, and of the philosophers of the eighteenth century, it continues to be, in France, an important social institution.

Just now there is a kind of epidemic of duels. Every day in the week there are meetings in the woods in the environs of Paris. The combatants no longer cross the frontier as of old. In the first place, the journey to the Belgian. German, or Spanish frontier is costly; in the second place, a Parisian wit has given it out that if the combatants cross the frontier it is because they count on the engineement being inter-rupted by the gendarmes. Thanks to the toleration of the police, engagements may safely take place around Paris, and not long ago more than two hundred persons witnessed a famous duel between two fencing masters. Pons of Paris and the Baron de San de Mulato of Naples. This duel took place on the racecourse at Vesinet. In point of fact most of these encounters are not very serious affairs. The journalists often fight to get themselves and their journal talked about; the young bucks fight to get their names up, as they say in Great Britain. For the benefit of duellists of this class no ingenious formula has been invented. An official report of every duel is forwarded to all the newspapers and signed by the seconds. In this it is stated that after a combat of such and such duration one of the antagonists received a scratch on the hand, and the seconds, "considering that the wound realered the chances unequal, felt themseives called upon to terminate the encounter.

and declared honor to be satisfied." Nevertheless, the frequency of duels, from whatever motives, has had the effect of causing a large part of the population of France to frequent the fencing rooms, for the fashion set by Paris is followed in the provinces, and the provincial journals also have their standing head line, "Duels," like their Parisian models. A new journal, called L'Escrime, has been tounded under high patrenage to meet this new want of French society, and I have before me a splendid volume, called "The Men of the Sword," in which a Parisian expert in matters of fencing, the Baron de Vaux, has analyzed the style, the form, and the performance of the most famous contemporary swordsmen. In short, every man who respects himself, every young follow who pretends to be at all stylish, must pass an hour or two every day in the fencing rooms under the orders of his trainer. The fencing room is fashionable, and public opinion, or rather the opinion of society under the thir I republic, is that the duel preserves honor, reputation, and dignity.

The tending rooms of Paris are to be counted by the score, and the profession of fencing master is held in high honor. The most calebrated of the guild is Vigeant, the gentleman master, as he is called by the Anglo-maniaes. Vigeant is a handsome young fellow who affeets the airs of Achilles in his sulking moods. He is very touchy, reserved, and capricious, Some say he poses. He lives in a handsome apartment in the second story at 91 Rue de Hennes. You ring and the door is opened by a fine, muscular man, whom you at once recog-nize as a provest of the profession. He introduces you into the cabinet of the master. On the chimney plate is a seventeenth century wood engraving representing Saint Michael, the patron saint of fencers. By the side of this picture is another of Don Quixote, sword in hand, gravely studying in some book of chivalry thrusts that are no longer secret. In the corners are rapiers of all kinds; on the walls engravings of fencing scenes; a full-length portrait of the master by Carolus Duran; right and le tiwo bookeases containing a unique collection of everything that has been written on fencing for the last three hundred years; in the middle a table covered with books, an insstand, a pen, and a rapier. It is here that Vigeant gives con-

sultations on his art. Next in reputation to Vigeant is Mérignae, who rarely exhibits his skill in public. Then after these two stars follow the lesser colebrities, Mimiague, Rouleau, the brothers Robert. Cain, and Gatechair (or Spoliflesh), two predestined names, Pellerin, Lastieri, and others. Furthermore the millionaires have their private fen ing rooms, one of the most splendid of which is that of M. Edmond Dollfus, in his mansion in the Rue Presbourg, where an assault at arms took place last Sunday in presence of the élite of Parisian high life. M. Dollfue is also the President of the Fencing Club.

This assault was a most imposing affair. The process revial of it, printed in gold letters on parchment, and given to these who took part in the tournament, is a beautiful work of art. Brawn up in the style of the middle ages, this document records the details of the different encounters, and thus describes the managers of the tournament:

The Tribuval of Arms that directed firs based or all as the stable of a branch to the first based and the first based and the first based and the tribuval of the first based and the verse grant mission and the based of the according to the stable of the

In the above extract from this fantastic and great names among the amateur sucrismen.

The five resutedly her the observation M.M. Aftenso de Aldama, Expected the United Statemen, the many many process to be a suggestion of the statement. ar steeratic document will be found some of the

the Comte Lindemann, De Wasckiewicz, and De Ferry d'Esclands. Among the journalists and poets who are famous fencers and duellists, may be mentioned Aurélien Scholl, Léon Chapron, Henry Fouquier of the XIX. Siècle, the Baron Hardon-Hickey of the royalist journal Le Triboulet, Arthur Paul de Cassagnac, Ranc, Jean Richepin, Albert de Saint-Albin (Robert Milton of the Figuro), René Maizeroi, and Armand Silvestre. Among painters the finest blades are Alfred Stevens and Carolus Duran.

In Caroius Duran's studio, in the Bue Notre Dame des Champs, the most conspicuous objects on the wails, besides the pictures and sketches, are a mask, glove, and rapier, and a guitar. Carolus is a very brilliant swordsman, of whom his master. Vigeant, speaks only with respect. This celebrated artist, with his swaggering gait. his lace sleeve raffles, his fine voice, and his varied accomplishments, ought to have been born in the sixteenth century. He is too picturesque for our prosaic times. Alfred Stevens, too, is a man of the type of the gallant knight of old. I need not say that fencing does not hurt the talent of either of these excellent painters. For that matter, they have illustrious predecessors who excelled in the two arts. Raphael Sanzio was a first-class fencer. Benvenuto Ceilini, Veiasquez, and Salvator Rosa handled the sword in perfection; and the Spaniard Ribern, who was killed in a duel, was the most celebrated brave of all the Spains. In a list of Parisian dueilists the names of

Henri Rochefort and Dr. Clemenceau must not omitted. But neither of these men is a fencer; the latter is a dead shot with the pistol; the former is never wanting in pluck whatever be the weapon chosen. In the combats of the present day the pistol is very rarely used. The fashionable weapon is the rapier or the sabre. It is different from the days of the famous Lord Saymour when the gilded youth of Paris found it necessary to be accomplished in the art of boxing, single stick, and the sacate, a brutal art of kicking which is to a Frenchman what fisticuffs are to an Anglo-Saxon. The reader may, perhaps, remember that Eugène Sue, in his "Mystories of Paris," relates how Prince Rudolphe was able to vanquish his enemies by his knowledge of the manner in which the lower classes settle their differences when they refrain by mutual consent from using their knives. Those were the days when the Duc de Grammont-Caderousee and his friends used to sup at Philippe's in the Rue Montorguell, and the natural conclusion to the carouse was a hand-to-hand fight with the market porters. The polished youth of to-day take no d-light in such turbulent sports. Under the direction of Saint-Michael, Don Quixote, and Master Vigeant, the present duelling and fencing mania is as likely as not to lead to a renaissance of chivalry. The French under the third republic will have their tournsments and courts of arms, their knights and nobles of the sword, to correspond to the mesthetic eccentricities of their neighbors across the Channel. There will then be a chance for some witty Tybait with his pen prepared" to write a companion piece to "Patience" or the 'Colonel," all bristling with secret thrusts and full of the tac-tac and clashing of the weapons of satire and ridicule. THEODORE CHILD.

## Mr. Sparks on the Pension Arrears Act.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In an editorial article in Tax Sun of the 13th inst, under the caption, "The Huge Pension Swindle," after condemning the action of a veral members of the House of Repre sentatives, &c., with respect to the "Arrears of Pension act," you speak of me and my action as follows:

This was the first move. The second was to bring in a bill, Feb 17, 1879, to appropriate \$25.0.0(88) for "arrears of pensions due on cleans in which the musicus were allowed prior to Jan 29, 1878." Mr. Sparks reported that tail from the Committee on Apprepriations, and a deliberate deception was gradied on the House, because he had before him a consummination from the interior Department, dated Feb. 8, 1879, saying: The Commissioner estimates that \$34.08(5.09 will be required to pay arrears under this act upon claims prior to Jan 25, 1870.

Now, the fects are that the Arrears of Pensions act was already a law, and my connection with it was simply as the organ of the Appropriations Committee, of which I was a member, to appropriate the money to pay them in accordance with the law. The record shows that the bill I brought in was the unanimous report of that committee:

I am charged with deception in reporting a bill fer \$25,000,000, when the Commissioner had estimated \$34 000,000.

rears on claims allowed prior to Jan 25, 1879," and \$2.5 0,000 for "claims to be allowed between Jan 25, 1870, and the close of that fiscal year," aggregating for all the sum of \$10,500,000, thee his letter, hix Doc. No.

75, 45th C tiress)
But in the same latter be recommends an amendment to the Arreurs act providing for rating the arrears, and gives a form of the amendment which he sursequently self in the shape of a non-commission

That the rate at which the arrears of invalid pensions

committee as a part of the bill.

By the adoution of this clause the Commissioner stated. stal truly; that the total arrears would be reduced over 205, er cent, and that \$25,00,000 for the past allowed claims and \$15,000,000 for the remainder, to be allowed during the balance of the fiscal year turgregating \$25.88.080, would meet the case, and do so as tinly as the \$36 500 000 would do without this amending clause. The operations of this rating process he fully explains this letter of copy of which I sent your On page 7, he uses this language:

The adoption of the recommendations will materially The allociton of the recommendations will materially reduce I the estimates above made but to data is, or in the limit of the at my command can be, collected upon which or rest mentarity reliable Approximate estimate at the reduction. For many general knowledge of the petisonic however, and the approximate are based, in an enable of that the estimate are based, if an conflict that the estimate for the arrears due to the action of the subsection of the formula of the subsection of the formula of the subsection o

shich, in view of the fact that these arrears now seem to be swelling to such gigantic propertiess, will save most likely in the end from \$80,000,000 to \$100,000, 00 Your next statement is also unjust. You say:

in the Hou e. in the milit of which Gen. Base, with great 20.1-1 quate the Congressional Rivers, 1879, Vol. 34, page 1,487-said:

N. W. 1818 is the same as a second of the second of the second of the reason why you would intentionally do appraising of the second of the se ask that you putsist this as an act of fustice to me.
Washington, the tik Wm A. J. Spa

# Speeding in Seventh Avenue.

To the Epiton or The Sun-Sir: In the article in the Sux this morning on the trans of speed in Seventh avenue hast Saturday it is stated that hapten

### Government by Editors. Error the Tribane.

Gambetra seems to have made little off ut to

### A Betermed Sewspaper. Front the France Herald.

There is a growing feeling in every healthy community against the purpose which make it short product of taste by seeding out and strong up a sedicture to the discussion and incontinua reversions.

## SUNBEAMS

-A new law in Kansas forbids any person to marry within six months after procuring a livere -It is proposed to erect a monument to Sallostat Aquila, in the Abrozzi, overlooking the liver Aterno-the site of the ancient Amiternum, where the

historian was born. -M. Zola has finished a new novel, to be

called "Pot-Bonille," for which he is said to have re-ceived the sum of 30.000 frames merely for the right of first publication as a feetleton. -Some years ago Miss Libble Minkler of

Rochelle, Ill., lost both arms by failing to front of a reaper. To-day she is earning a good living by oil paint. ing, holding the brush in her teeth.

-A watchmaker opened a shop at Lehigh, Iown, and repaired watches at such astonishingly cheas rates that over a hundred were soon on his bench. Then he packed them in his trank and travelled on -The Duke of Marlborough, the sale of

whose valuable and really priceless lib ary is making such a stir in the bibliological world, has at this moment more than 5,000 acres of land thrown on his hands -The friends of a poor man at Stillwater, Minn., gratuitously dug a grave for his dead child, but the sexton rejused to permit the funeral procession to enter commetery, on the ground that he had been cheated

-A Chicago druggist sold to a freekled rirl a lotion which he warranted would remove the plemishes from her face. And so it did, but it also burned away the skin, leaving scars that permanently distigure her. She is suing for \$20,000 damages.

-Owing to the total failure of the fisheries, the population of the island of Anticosti, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, have become so poverty stricken that the Marine and Fisheries Department have had to remove them to Quebec in Government steamers. -A number of Mormons who claim that

Brigham Young introduced the doctrine of polygamy and blood atonement contrary to the original belief, have organized a new church in Sait Lake City. They resounce polygamy, and re use to pay any more tithes. -Mr. Robert Browning is giving sittings to two artists for his portrait—to Mr. Frith, who has naturally put him into the picture he is painting of "The

Private View" at the Royal Academy, and Mr. P.

Samlys, who is painting a escelul portrait, and has already had eight or nine sittings of three hours each. -Archie and Fannie Parker purchased heir freedom of Dr. Woods for \$1,500 in the days when they were his necro chattels in Kentucky. He was at that time worth \$250000 in land and slaves. The war impoverished him, and he could never get a fresh start again. The Parkers did tolerably well, however, and he is now an inmate of their house in Cincinnali.

-A hygienic exhibition will be opened in Berlin during the coming spring. The committee will exhibit any machinery, &c., appertaining to the subject, of foreign invention. In addition to the actual subjects comprised under the head of hygiene, inventions of apparatus for the savifig of the from fire or water will be in-cluded in the exhibition. Dr. Siemens has offered to light the buildings by his electric light -An English nobleman, who eleven years

ago inherited a very fine property in the midland coun-ties, containing some of the richest and best cultivated land in England, finds himself now, in these bad times of agriculture, with ten large farms thrown on his hands The tenants on most of these farms were almost patri archal, the leases having descended from father to see for a hundred and fifty or two hundred years. -Regarding a rumor that Thomas Hughes would not return to the Rugby colony in Tennessee. having severed his connection with the project, the

Rayleian says: "Should Mr. Hughes indeed abandon the enterprise, it would probably be the last straw to this much tried colony. The position of Rugby is already nufficiently critical to cause considerable apprehension to those interested in her future." The general tone of -President Porter of Yale takes occasion to declare that in the instruction department of the co lege no religious tests are applied. It is not even de

nanded that instructors shall formally express a faith in God or shall use any religious influences. "But we do require," he says, "that no influences or instructions in any unchristian direction shall be allowed, whether directly or indirectly, and we expect that the public will -The Knights of Columbia are a Western secret organization of calored men. Two lodges in St. Louis use the same hall, and, owing to a mounderstand

ing, they both met for "work" on the same evening. High Sovereign Holland of Miscouri Union L de was scated on his throne, arrayed in purcle regain, when High Sovereign Andrews of the Future Great Lodge en tered and deman lot the place. Both were armed with hig swords, and with these a flerce combat was fought The members joined the fray, the throne was demniished, and the police bad to break in to restore peace. -Those who are interested in the history

of the first French revolution will probably learn with surprise that the grandchildren and great grandchildren of Camille Desmoulins, as well as the widow of his ser Horace, are now living in Havil. The existence of made known in the form of an appeal to all sinters its sented as being in a state of the atmost destitution. Only a few weeks ago a descendant of Danton revealed him Austrian service, doing daty in Boscia.

-The number of designs and models received in Rome for the new monimpest to Victor Empi-uel amounts to about 3 th. The architects incline to the construction of a public square, flanked by no these and a triumphal arch in the centra, with the status of Victor This was incorporated by me and agreed to by the | Emanuel under it. The sculptors favor a measured in the form of an obelias, and many designs for such as obelisk are felicitous. Among the absorbitis mentioned is a design by an American for a monogent in the form of a helmet, on the circular part of which is the map of Europe in relief, and on the creat the map of Italy, and between these the figure of Victor Emannel on horse back with a drawn award,

-M. Jules Simon in the Parls Gaulois de-Votes every day many collimate to warry insolver at tacks on M. Gambetta. He rotteless or the trades the following anecdotes: "Some feed days and Manufetta. met in a salon a Sanator of the Right Will M La Pre-ident,' said the Senator pluster into the senect without preface, 'w.at do you much to do will not which is rest in certarity reliable adorder in at a contract of the reduction. For any recognition of the reduction. For any recognition of the reduction of th Blanc, and M. Barotlet ! When the Complexe

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Minimis were thus maked to the arrestage and. This clearly institutes that this amendment was mine.

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-Another affliction has befalled the inh dejaus of the Durdanelles, Have a super-placed ellowests, there are more an amount of of horse stealers. As small decreases a and I will accept it so far as I am concerned.

Then, utter a running discussion, in which others purchased, and no observation to the emendment per se. Farces tool it, and the this prised.

Now this is the whole case, and I cheerfully assume they have been accepted in an incompanion.

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Exhaust of the responsibilities. Reviews to follow them. The matter of the to decline to take any steps in the and tor tegaven fortall a sheet of the control of the pathog than throw good in libe ath

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